

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~to proliferate of proliferating~~ human chondrocytes comprising ~~the method steps of:~~

- 1) ~~a step of collecting human cartilage having perichondrium;~~
- 2) ~~a step of treating the cartilage having perichondrium with type II collagenase; an enzyme; and~~
- 3) ~~a step of culturing the centrifuging the treated cartilage having perichondrium obtained in step [[2,]] 2) to obtain precipitate; and~~
- 4) culturing the precipitate of step 3),

~~wherein the chondrocytes and perichondrium are both in the culture, and of the cartilage having perichondrium of step 1) is combined with the culture of step 3), and wherein no non-human animal feeder cells are present in step [[3]] 4), and further wherein the cells increase to at least 1 X 10⁶ cells from 1 cm² tissue in primary culture and further increase at least 1000 times in subculture.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cartilage is auricular cartilage.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: seeding the cultured chondrocytes in a monolayer or multilayer at least once; and culturing the chondrocytes until a chondrocyte mass forms.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, further comprising: seeding the cultured chondrocytes in a monolayer or multilayer at least once; and culturing the chondrocytes until a chondrocyte mass is formed.

5-6. (Canceled).